

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 DPW-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 USIE-00 PA-04 /119 W
----- 025483

O 191130Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0935

INFO JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE 4069

AMCONSUL CG HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0857

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: PRC/RVN CONFRONTATION IN THE PARVACELS ISLANDS

REF: DAO SGN 190140Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

DAO SGN 190200Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

DAO SGN 190345Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

DAO SGN 190355Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

DAOP SGN 190545Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

DAO SGN 190555Z JAN 74 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING VN NAVY HEADQUARTERS, A VNN FORCE OF FOUR VESSELS (TWO COAST GUARD CUTTERS, ONE DESTROYER ESCORT AND ONE PATROL CRAFT ESCORT

)

LANDED A FORCE OF 74 SEAL TROOPS ON DUNCAN ISLAND, PARACELS

(III DEGREES 45 MINUTES EAST AND 16 DEGREES 28 MINUTES NORTH)

AT 0630 (H), JANUARY 19, 1974. ESTIMATED TWO COMPANIES OF

PRC TROOPS LANDED FROM SOME OF EIGHT PRC VESSELS IN VICINITY AND

SURROUNDED VNN TROOPS AT 0830. TWO SEALS WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED

IN THE ENGAGEMENT.

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2. VNN SHIPS WERE ORDERED TO SHELL ISLAND WHILE EXTRACTING TROOPS,

BUT NOT TO ENGAGE THE PRC SHIPS. TWO MORE PRC SHIPS APPEARED ON THE SCENE, FOLLOWED BY A REPORTED KOMAR CLASS GUNBOATS, WITH STYX SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES.

3. PRC AND VNN VESSELS BEGAN EXCHANGE OF FIRE SHORT TIME LATER. ONE PRC SUBMARINE CHASER TYPE VESSEL WAS REPORTEDLY HIT AND SET ABLAZE.

ALL FOUR VNN VESSELS WERE HIT. THE VNN PATROL CRAFT ESCORT WAS SUNK AND ONE COAST GUARD CUTTER WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. DAMAGED CUTTER PROCEEDING TOWARD DANANG WITH ONE ENGINE OPERABLE. REMAINING TWO VESSELS HAVE REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN TO THE EASTERN PART OF SAME GROUP OF ISLANDS. VNN HAS DISPATCHED FOUR OTHER COASTAL VESSELS TO THE SCENE TO SEARCH FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE PATROL CRAFT THAT WAS SUNK.

4. CASUALTIES FOR THE VNN INCLUDE 80-90 MISSING (THE COMPLEMENT OF THE VESSEL THAT WAS SUNK). IN ADDITION TO THE SEAL CASUALTIES ABOVE, TWO CREW MEMBERS WERE KILLED AND A TOTAL OF 23 WOUNDED. ALL VNN TROOPS ON DUNCAN ISLAND WERE REPORTEDLY EXTRACTED.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF FURTHER CONFLICT SINCE EARLY AFTERNOONV. ARVN PRESS SPOKESMAN RELEASED INFORMATION AT 1500 PRESS BRIEFING.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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